

**CONFIDENTIAL**

1 October 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Analysis Branch, DD/CR

ATTENTION :  DD/AB/SS

FROM : Chief, Publications Staff, ORR

SUBJECT : Release of CIA/RR GM 59-2, Laos,  
September 1959, **SECRET**, to foreign  
recipients

1. It is requested that the attached copies of subject report be  
forwarded as follows:

#75-78  
#79  
#80-82  
#83  
#84-85  
#86  
#87  
#88

2. All ORR responsibilities as defined in the DDI memorandum of  
13 August 1952, "Procedures for Dissemination of Finished Intelligence  
to Foreign Governments," as applicable to this report, have been fulfilled.

DOCUMENT NO. 2  
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐  
☐ DECLASSIFIED  
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S © 1989  
NEXT REVIEW DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
AUTH: HR 70-2  
DATE: 11/1/79 REVIEWER:

13

*Jm* **Attachments**

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**SECRET**

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Copy No. 382


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# GEOGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

CIA/RR-GM-59-2  
23 September 1959

## LAOS



DOCUMENT NO. 1  
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐  
X DECLASSIFIED  
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C  
NEXT REVIEW DATE: AUTH: HR 702  
DATE: 24/7/99 REVIEWER: 

25X1

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND REPORTS

### WARNING

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the espionage laws, Title 18, USC, Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

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~~SECRET~~

Climate

Laos has a monsoonal climate with pronounced wet and dry seasons and relatively uniform temperatures ranging from moderate to high. The mean annual temperature in Luang Prabang, at about 1,000 feet elevation, is 78°F. In January, freezing temperatures may occur at high elevations; and uncomfortably cold nights may be experienced at median elevations not only in January but also during the rainy

\* The term "iso" is used to refer to members of the ethnic subgroup and the term "tai" to the larger ethnic group, which includes the lao and a number of smaller tribes. The "lao-tai" refers to citizens of Laos and "tai" to citizens of Thailand. The designations "Red Tai" (Tai Deng), "White Tai" (Tai Khao), and "Black Tai" (Tai Dam) apply to three tribal groups distinguished on the basis of the color of the clothes traditionally worn by them.

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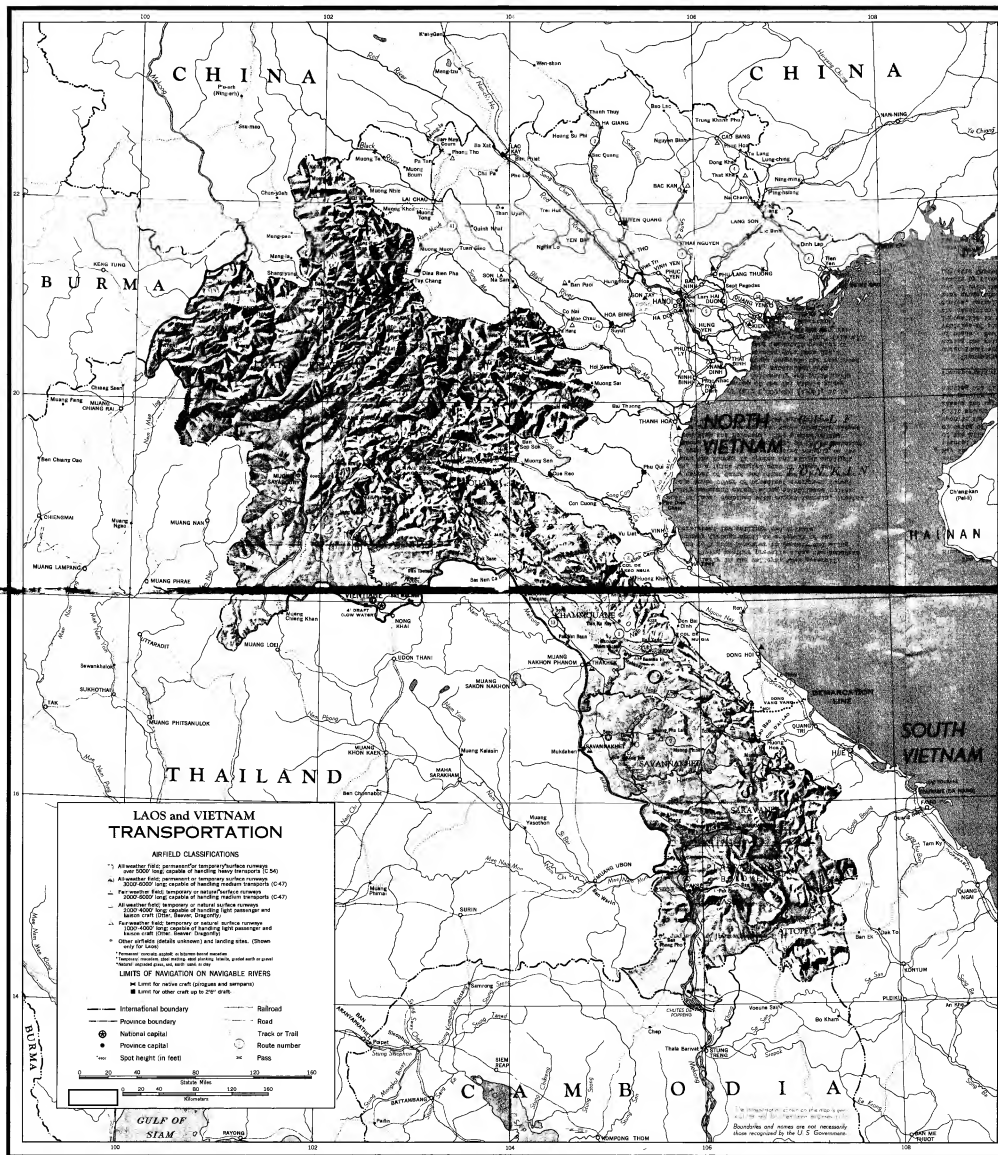


Because of limited ground and river transportation facilities, air transport is extremely important, often the only means of supplying remote areas. Weather conditions, however, particularly in the rainy season, can severely limit air operations both by interfering with actual flying and by rendering some of the natural-surface airfields unusable. (See Map 20013 for location of airfields.)

Effect on Military Operations

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ADDENDUM, January 1961

Transportation Notes, I. Roads, North Vietnam

Thanh Hoa--Hoi Xuan--Laos Border--Sam Neua (Laos)

Thanh Hoa to Hoi Xuan: paved surface, 1957; probably all weather suitable for heavy traffic. From Hoi Xuan to Laos border, 20 feet wide, earth or gravel road with wooden bridges. Reportedly trucks were reaching border at Muong Lat, January 1960. Road from border to Sam Neua, 41 miles, rough, many damaged small bridges but jeepable in dry weather. 1960.

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